

**STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM**  
**Rhode Island Department of Administration**  
**One Capitol Hill**  
**Providence, RI 02908-5872**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Municipal Chief Executives

**SUBJECT:** Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2003-2004

**DATE:** June 5, 2002

Enclosed for your information and review is the draft TIP for federal fiscal years 2003-2004. The TIP is the State's short-term program of transportation projects that will be eligible for federal funding. This document is also available at [www.planning.state.ri.us](http://www.planning.state.ri.us).

Two public hearings on the draft TIP are scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2002. Both hearings will be held at RI Department of Administration Building in Providence. Please see the attached notice.

The TIP was prepared according to State Planning Council Rule IX "Transportation Planning and Public Involvement procedures." The Council's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) played a key role in shaping the TIP recommendations.

Local officials also played an important role in developing the TIP. Cities and towns were informed of the opportunity to submit their project proposals and were invited to attend one of four regional workshops to better understand the TIP process. Four public hearings were held to receive TIP proposals and hear public comment. The TAC, working through a series of subcommittees, evaluated 170 project proposals.

The draft TIP is now before the State Planning Council. We are forwarding it to you for review. Your comments are requested by July 5, 2002.

After the public hearings, the State Planning Council will review all oral and written comments received, consider any revisions, and adopt a final TIP. After that, the TIP is to be recommended by the Governor to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approval.

Thank you for your assistance in developing the TIP. If you have any questions, please call me at 222-5772 or Katherine Trapani, Supervising Planner at 222-6479.

John P. O'Brien  
Chief, Statewide Planning

Enclosures (2)  
cc: Dr. Ankner, RIDOT  
Dr. Scott, RIPTA

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM**  
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5870

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE  
D R A F T  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**  
for the STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
Federal Fiscal Years 2003-2004 (October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2004)

**The Rhode Island State Planning Council will conduct two public hearings to accept comments on the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the State of Rhode Island for FFY 2003-2004.**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a multi-year program that schedules over \$400 million in federal and state transportation system investments which support implementation of the Ground Transportation Element of the State Guide Plan. Projects include highway and road construction, re-construction, and resurfacing; bicycle and pedestrian projects; transit projects and programs; transportation projects designed to improve air quality and reduce congestion; projects to improve traffic flow or safety; and transportation projects that enhance the environment and communities. The TIP is updated every two years in accordance with federal requirements and the State Planning Council's Rules.

The draft TIP is available for review at the R.I. Statewide Planning Program office, One Capitol Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Providence, RI between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and at the Program's website at [www.planning.state.ri.us](http://www.planning.state.ri.us). A copy may also be obtained by calling (401) 222-7901.

**The dates, times and locations of the public hearings are as follows:**

**Thursday, June 27, 2002  
2:00 P.M.  
RI Dept. of Administration  
Conference Room "A"  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI**

**Thursday, June 27, 2002  
6:00 P.M.  
RI Dept. of Administration  
Conference Room "A"  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI**

The hearing locations are accessible to handicapped persons. Those requiring any accommodation for disabilities must notify Ms. Patricia Greene at (401) 222-7901 not less than 48 hours in advance of a hearing.

All persons may present their views on the draft document in person, through a representative, or by filing a written statement with the Secretary of the State Planning Council. Written statements must be received by July 5, 2002.

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John P. O'Brien  
Secretary  
State Planning Council

May 29, 2002  
To be published June 5, 2002

## COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT TIP: 2003-2004 AND PROPOSED RESPONSES

#	Date	Name/Org.:	Comment/Request:	Proposed Response:	Change in draft TIP:
W1	5/12	Sue Barker, Greenways Alliance	Include BikeProvidence for construction	Project included after review by Bicycle Subcommittee	None
W2	5/22	Craig Della Penna, Rails to Trails	Postpone Demolition of Jamestown Bridge to allow more time for reuse feasibility	Funding deferred by TAC at 5/23 mtg. in favor of advancing highway projects.	Bulk of funding deferred until 2005 (first draft of TIP)
W3	6/11	Alan Barta  abarta@us.bnsmc.com	The following bike facilities are lacking: 1. Connections to Providence 2. West Bay to Wickford 3. South County does not connect to anything 4. Airport is a car only facility 5. West Bay to Newport	1) Bike Providence funded for construction 2) Studied and determined not to be feasible on Route 1 – MOU signed between DOT/NK to look at other alternatives 3) Phase 3 will connect to Peacedale and Wakefield to Amtrak Station 4) Amtrak Station and people mover to airport is in the design phase. 5) Bicycle connection is planned to the new Jamestown Bridge, and policies support connection to Newport, but that is long term	None
W4	6/18	Melisa Ridenour, Federal Highway Administration	Half of Jamestown Bridge demo should be funded in 2004 (mitigation commitment, hazard to navigation, reuse not feasible)	The State remains committed to demolition. It is a one season project, and the effect of funding \$6M in 2004 will advance the project only by a few months at the expense of 3 highway projects.	None
W5	6/21	Donna Cupelo, Providence Foundation	Support TIP as is.	Comment noted.	None
W6	6/27	Jenifer Pereira, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council	Support for Northwest Bike Trail and Woonasquatucket River Heritage Trail Enhance ment Project	Comment noted.	None
W7	6/28	Joseph Parella, Town of Bristol	Funding for Hope Street sidewalks should be advanced – programmed for 2007.	Enhancement Program allows flexibility. Projects ready for construction can usually be advanced. Requires close coordination w/ DOT	None
W8	7/5	Ellen Forman, Neighbors of Rawson Road Bridges	Funding for Rawson Road Bridges in Cumberland should be advanced – programmed for 2007.	Will forward comment to DOT who has discretion in programming bridge projects. In all likelihood, the bridges that are programmed before are in worse shape and/or carry more traffic.	None
PH1	6/27	Rick Crenca, City of Warwick, on behalf of Mayor Avedesian  <i>written statement and supplemental material submitted</i>	Reconsider funding Apponaug Circulator for construction	A subcommittee of the TAC has determined that the cost of this project (the alternative endorsed by the City) is too high in proportion to the transportation benefit, although it would benefit Apponaug village. The City should consider less costly alternatives for submission in the next TIP.	None

PH2	6/27	Joe Guay, Governor's Commission on Disabilities	Spoke in favor of their sidewalk proposals under ADA compliance	The RIDOT has agreed to work with the GCD to prioritize projects within the ADA program.	None
PH3	6/27	Alan Brodd, Town of Cumberland  <i>written statement submitted</i>	1) in favor of Martin Street which made S&D list; 2) request to move up Rawson Road Bridge repairs (2007 is too late); 3) Blackstone St. disappeared from 2001-02 pavement mgmt; 4) disappointed that other proposals did not make the TIP.	1) comment noted 2) see response to W6 above 3) project was submitted as reconstruction for study and development – was scored and ranked 8 <sup>th</sup> by subcommittee (rated as low priority, town road by DOT) 4) three projects did not score high enough to be included, two were ineligible (Forest Ave and Lonesome Pine Rd)	None
PH4	6/27	Richard Buser, Pawtucket	I-95 lighting is not maintained, especially in Providence/Pawtucket, creates hazardous construction zones, School St. exit is top priority	The TIP sets aside \$1M for "Lighting Repair and Improvements" in the Traffic/Safety Program. Contact RIDOT's Maintenance Division.	None
PH5	6/27	Dani Simons, Groundwork Providence	Supports BikeProvidence, Northwest and Woonasquatucket Bike Trails, and CMAQ bike funding. Should connect Washington Secondary to Providence	Comment noted. Planning is underway to connect with Providence.	None
PH6	6/27	Kendra Beaver, Save the Bay  <i>written statement and supplemental material submitted</i>	1) Questioned whether there is sufficient funding under Stormwater Retrofit to complete all projects agreed on, or even priority projects; questions if funds were properly allocated; requests add'l \$3.8 million; 2) disappointed that Woods Pond in Barrington did not make the Enhancement list	1) DOT will continue to work with DEM and environmental groups. Funding stream will be reevaluated in 2 years pending project design status. 2) The TEAC did not select this project for Enhancement funding.	None
PH7	6/27	Richard Grant, Kingston	Will continue to advocate for Route 138 extension (I-895) through regional and corridor planning approach to alleviate campus and tourist traffic in Kingston village that is further exacerbated by the Convocation Center	Comment noted. Future involvement in land use plan update and corridor planning study is encouraged. Washington County Regional Planning Commission is becoming more active and may be interested in this issue.	None
PH8	6/27	James Russell, Hereshoff Marine Museum	Expressed gratitude for award of Enhancement grant, would like to advance project from 2006; will be ready for construction in 2003	Offentimes, Enhancement projects are delayed, and projects ready for construction can be moved up	None
PH9	6/27	Wolfgang Bauer, West Warwick  <i>supplemental material submitted</i>	Requested that Arctic Circulation in S&D be moved to construction (at 30% design paid for by Town, cost is \$680,000). New London Turnpike, also in S&D, will be ready for construction in next TIP. Town is again picking up design cost.	After RIDOT approval of 30% design and if funds are freed up from another project that is delayed, TIP amendment procedures are in place for TAC/SPC consideration.	None

PH 10	6/27	Alicia Karpick, Sierra Club	1) In favor of Broad Street Enhancement, Bike/Ped Program, and deferring Jamestown Bridge funding; 2) Questioned status of Intermodal Info Center at PVD; 3) TMC receives too much money; 4) I-195 and Route 403 should be postponed; 5) study commuter rail stop in Pawtucket and electrification of MBTA commuter rail; 6) lobby for more transit funding in ISTEA reauthorization; 7) RI losing sprawl battle – Convocation Center is a good example	1) Comment noted. 2) RIPTA reported that production of graphic materials is nearly complete and will be on display shortly. 3) Comment noted. TMC is not funded for 05-08 and will have to compete against other projects. 4) Both projects are funded per EIS and ROD 5) SPP staff has requested info on electrification from MBTA (response not yet rec'd.). Sierra Club may want to contact the Pawtucket Foundation re: train station. Has been studied before, and has several deficiencies. 6) Suggest that the Sierra Club share their concerns with Congressional delegation. 7) Comment noted. Despite state policies related to smart growth, land use remains in local jurisdiction.	None
PH 11	6/27	Heather Florence, Friends of India Point Park	1) Expressed gratitude for Enhancement funds for visitor center but in favor of delaying until location is finalized (without jeopardizing funds); bury power lines in park; 2) question on future bike path alignments in the area following I-195 relocation; 3) request traffic be diverted to Henderson Bridge to improve local air quality	1) Suggest contacting project proponent to coordinate w/ RIDOT Intermodal Planning. 2) RIDOT can advise on bike path alignment. 3) The I-195 design has been approved with full consideration of local traffic patterns. Rerouting traffic may serve only to move local air quality problems and is not a viable solution.	None
PH 12	6/27	Eric Wilcox, Narragansett Indian Tribe	1) Charlestown ADA project should be completed; 2) MPO staff should work with FHWA on TEA-21 reauthorization with respect to Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program; 3) requests NIT membership on TAC/MPO; 4) believes that public participation on TIP is inadequate	1) Will forward comment to DOT to check on status 2) FHWA staff has agreed to provide training to staff and the TAC on IRR program. 3) Request is noted and will be considered when nominating committee meets in October. 4) Extensive outreach and public participation has occurred. FHWA has commended RISPP on project selection process and outreach to underserved populations. More participation could occur at the local level.	None
PH 13	6/27	Ralph Rizzo, FHWA	\$6M should be programmed for Jamestown Bridge Demo in 2004 to fulfill federal commitments	The State remains committed to demolition. It is a one season project, and the effect of funding \$6M in 2004 will advance the project only by a few months at the expense of 3 highway projects.	None
PH 14	6/27	Mary Shepard, Pedestrian Activist	Warwick should consider traffic calming methods and restoring 2 way traffic to Apponaug in lieu of circulator project; the design for Two Mile Corner in Middletown has too many curb cuts and is unfriendly to pedestrians	Comment noted. City of Warwick will be encouraged to consider lower cost alternatives, possibly including these techniques. Suggest becoming involved at the local level on design issues	None

PH 15	6/27	John Anderson, Pawtucket resident	Opposed to Waterfront Drive, North End project in E. Prov/Pawtucket; it will be disruptive to residential neighborhood, Pawtucket City Council lacks support for this project as demonstrated by their failure to act on ROW transactions. Follow-up comments: poor communication between city officials and residents	Project has been in TIP for 6 years with local support. Formal withdrawal of project support must come from City Council. Suggest working with local elected officials to address communication issues.	None
PH 16	6/27	Dennis Phelan, Town of Barrington	Posed questions on Barrington projects in Enhancements, Pavement Management, and Study and Development	RIDOT will work with Town to identify an Enhancement project for FY 07. Town projects listed in Pavement Mgmt. Are for RIDOT evaluation – no funding is committed. Federal Rd is included in S&D as top ranked project in East Bay region.	None
PH 17	6/27	Jacqueline Sutherland, Pawtucket resident	New resident of area, opposed to Waterfront Drive, North End project in E. Prov/Pawtucket; it will be disruptive to residential neighborhood; fencing will prohibit pedestrian crossing and cut off access to playground; not properly buffered; Beverage Hill Rd needs sidewalk work/ADA issues. Follow-up comments: traffic study based on counts that are out of date; a traffic problem does not exist; speeding on new road will be a problem.	Project has been in TIP for 6 years with local support. Formal withdrawal of project support must come from City Council. Suggest working with local elected officials to address communication issues.	None
PH 18	6/27	Bob Votava, DOT Watch	1) Route 403-Phase 2 should be postponed until evaluated by new Governor; 2) I-195 should be re-evaluated; 3) bridge tolls should be used uniformly around the state; 4) supports commuter rail and RIPTA funding; 5) Segway legislation is a step backward	1) Phase 2 is not yet funded 2) I-195 is in the TIP as multi year project implying future commitment. 3) Comment noted. Governor vetoed bill prohibiting tolls on Sakonnet River Bridge 4) Comment noted 5) Comment noted. Issue will likely be revisited when (and if) Segways are used in RI.	None
PH 19	6/27	Grant Dulgarian	1) Status of Enhancements in North Providence (not listed in TIP); 2) stormwater runoff in Narragansett Bay Commission service area should be reduced, Clean Water Act amendments aren't effective for several years and interim measures should be implemented; 3) tolls on I-195 (E. Prov side) would yield more revenues than Sakonnet Bridge tolls.	1) Project programmed for 2003. 2) Stormwater regulations are already in place and all projects must be permitted by RIDEM. 3) The use of tolls on I-195 was evaluated in the EIS. This alternative was not selected for several reasons, one of which is the likelihood of traffic clogging local streets attempting to avoid tolls.	North Providence Centredale project listed in Enhancement Program for \$1.2 m in FY 2003

PH 20	6/27	Nora Dearmis, Pawtucket resident	New resident of area, opposed to Waterfront Drive, North End project in E. Prov/Pawtucket; it will be disruptive to residential neighborhood and have an adverse impact on the environment; traffic study based on counts that are out of date; does not concur that buffer zone is 4 acres; land req'd for buffer is still in private ownership.	Project has been in TIP for 6 years with local support. Formal withdrawal of project support must come from City Council. Suggest working with local elected officials to address communication issues.	None
PH 21	6/27	Robert Wirtanen, NIT	1) Posed a question re: IRR program in current TIP; 2) suggested that BIA formula funding to the state never gets back to the Tribe as intended; 3) newly authorized TEA-21 and IRR program will be beneficial to state	1) IRR program is included in the TIP for informational purposes as transmitted to SPP from BIA and FHWA. 2) SPP will forward this comment to FHWA 3) FHWA staff has agreed to provide training to staff and the TAC on the IRR program.	None